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ABSTRACT

A sympatholytic cardiovascular agent delivered by a drug delivery pump to a central nervous system site to alleviate symptoms and otherwise treat heart failure (HF) and pathologies associated with HF. The drug delivery pump can be external or implantable infusion pump (IIP) coupled with a drug infusion catheter extending to the site. A patient activator can command delivery of a dosage and/or an implantable heart monitor (IHM) coupled with a sensor can detect physiologic parameters associated with HF (or pathologies associated with HF) and trigger dosage delivery. The IIP and IHM can be combined into a single implantable medical device (IMD) or can constitute separate IMDs that communicate by any of known communication mechanisms. The sympatholytic cardiovascular agent is one of the group consisting of an alpha-adrenergic agonist and an alpha2-adrenergic agonist, e.g., clonidine, p-aminoclonidine, guanabenz, lidamidine, tizanidine, moxonidine, methyldopa, xylazine, guanfacine, detomidine, medetomidine, and dexmedetomidine.